

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY**

**FOR
~~RISK MANAGED~~ ABSOLUTE RETURN STRATEGIES PROGRAM**

~~April 21, 2008~~ August 15, 2011

This Policy is effective immediately upon adoption and supersedes all previous Risk Managed Absolute Return Strategies Program policies.

I. PURPOSE

The California Public Employees' Retirement System ("CalPERS") Total Fund Statement of Investment Policy, adopted by the CalPERS Investment Committee ("Committee"), sets forth CalPERS overarching investment purposes and objectives with respect to all its investment programs.

This document sets forth the investment policy ("Policy") for the ~~Risk-Managed~~ Absolute Return Strategies Program ("Program", "RMARS"). The design of this Policy ensures that investors, managers, consultants, and other participants selected by the California Public Employees' Retirement System ("CalPERS") take prudent and careful action while managing the Program. Additionally, use of this Policy assures sufficient flexibility in managing investment risks and returns associated with this Program.

II. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The Program's strategic objective is to broaden the opportunity set of CalPERS investment portfolio by utilizing [Absolute Return Funds](#) to capitalize upon investment opportunities not available ~~using~~ in traditional approaches to investing in public markets investments.

The Program shall be managed to accomplish the following:

- A. Enhance CalPERS long-term total return, subject to the careful management of [risk](#), consistent with an appropriate [risk budget](#).
- B. Hedge against long-term liabilities.
- C. Provide diversification to CalPERS overall investment program.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. CalPERS Investment Staff ("Staff") is responsible for the following:

1. All aspects of portfolio management, including monitoring, analyzing, and evaluating performance relative to the appropriate benchmark.
2. Evaluating and selecting Absolute Return Fund investment opportunities.
3. Reporting to the Committee no less than annually, and more often if needed, about the performance of the Program and the type of legal structures used to engage the investment managers.
4. Monitoring the implementation of, and compliance with, the Policy. Staff shall report material violations of this Policy at the next Committee meeting, or sooner if deemed necessary. Staff will also report material concerns, problems or changes related to the Policy and Program to the Committee as appropriate. These reports shall include explanations of any violations or other matters and appropriate recommendations for corrective action.
5. Evaluating and selecting [Absolute Return Fund Strategic Advisor\(s\)](#) ("Strategic Advisor(s)"). The selection process shall use specific criteria with the objective of identifying and selecting Strategic Advisor(s) that have, but are not limited to, the following characteristics:
 - a. Multiple senior personnel with significant amount of experience in the Absolute Return Fund industry.
 - b. Breadth of expertise across many fund strategies.
 - c. Robust quantitative disciplines for risk controls.
 - d. Sound quantitative process for constructing a portfolio.
 - e. Attractive fee arrangements.
 - f. Desire to work with CalPERS in a labor intensive fashion.
 - g. Commitment to providing CalPERS access to the most senior people within their organization.
 - h. The ability to assist CalPERS to the extent necessary in securing scarce capacity and position level transparency from Absolute Return Funds.

6. Monitoring selected [Investment Manager\(s\)](#) to determine if the managers' actions and investment results are consistent with this Policy and other applicable CalPERS policies.
 7. Overseeing the reconciliation of each investment by the [Hedge Fund Administrator](#) in accordance with [Generally Accepted Accounting Principles](#) on a monthly basis. The Hedge Fund Administrator shall provide an accounting ledger each month to Staff.
- B. The General Pension Consultant ("Consultant") is responsible for:
- Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting periodically to the Committee on the performance of the Program relative to the benchmark and policy.
- C. Strategic Advisor(s)' responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Assisting Staff in conducting the initial screening of potential Absolute Return Fund investments.
 2. Assisting Staff in performing front and back office due diligence and evaluating the legal terms of prospective Absolute Return Fund investments.
 3. Providing written opinions regarding Staff's recommendations to take significant actions such as allocating to or redeeming from an Absolute Return Fund.
 4. Assisting staff in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Program's investments relative to appropriate benchmarks and this Policy, in accordance with its agreement with CalPERS.
 5. Providing advice and feedback on strategic initiatives and policies for the Program's future success.
- D. The Investment Manager(s) is responsible for aspects of portfolio management as set forth in the Investment Manager's agreement with CalPERS and shall fulfill the following duties:
1. Communicating with Staff as needed regarding investment strategy and investment results. The Investment Manager is expected to monitor, analyze, and evaluate performance relative to any agreed-upon benchmarks.

2. Cooperating with Staff and the Program's Hedge Fund Administrator, and Strategic Partner(s) requests for information.
3. Complying with CalPERS reporting requirements, including but not limited to, accounting for fees and expenses.

IV. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE AND BENCHMARK

A. Performance Objectives

Absolute Return Funds are highly specialized investments; therefore, CalPERS shall establish performance objectives for each Absolute Return Fund. These objectives shall be set at levels that are consistent with the strategy employed by each Absolute Return Fund's Investment Manager.

The Program shall pursue the following objectives:

1. Targeted Risk

The Program level risk target shall be no greater than one-half the five year annualized volatility forecast of the CalPERS Global Equity Program benchmark ~~CalPERS Internal Wilshire 2500 Equity Index Fund~~, and that the Program shall be managed so that in any one month the decline in net asset value shall not exceed 10%.

2. Targeted Return

On an annual basis and for purposes of performance appraisals, the return target shall be the return of the one-year U.S. Treasury Bill rate plus 5% over a full market cycle (three to five years).

3. Targeted Liquidity

The majority of Absolute Return Fund assets that reside in direct relationships within the Program are expected to be convertible to cash and received within less than 90 days ~~subject to an initial lock-up of one year or less. In addition, the majority of Absolute Return Fund assets within the Program are expected to be subject to quarterly or more frequent liquidity after the expiration of any lock-up.~~

B. Benchmark

The benchmark for the ~~Risk-Managed~~ Absolute Return Strategies Program is specified in the Benchmarks ~~Modification and Benchmark~~

Details Policy. These benchmarks shall be established prior to investment and shall be documented with each Investment Manager.

V. INVESTMENT APPROACHES AND PARAMETERS

A. Approaches

1. ~~Absolute Return Funds shall be selected to enhance CalPERS Total Fund return with minimal directional exposure to existing CalPERS investments complement the traditional active management vehicles in the Global Equity Markets and AIM Investment Programs. Absolute Return Fund investments may include exposure to leverage or short selling of securities or both. The allocation of assets. The allocation to ARS is an active allocation outside of the strategic policy benchmark. The total allocation to RMARS will be restricted to the lesser of the following: for the Program shall come from the active or passive investments from the Global Equity Markets Program.~~
 - a) Tracking error: The estimated contribution to total fund asset allocation tracking error (active risk) of the ARS allocation as calculated by the CalPERS Risk Management Unit shall not exceed 40 basis points.
 - ~~a)b)~~ A maximum or "total allowable" allocation not to exceed 4% of the Total Fund.
2. The Program shall invest in Absolute Return Funds to generate the attractive risk-to-reward characteristics provided by these specialized and unique investment strategies.
3. The Program shall invest in Absolute Return Funds through partnerships or other formation structures, e.g., limited liability companies (LLCs), where the Investment Manager has expertise in the specified mandates and in related areas material to the success of each investment strategy. The justifications for a limited partnership or similar structure such as an LLC include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Financial Firewall: The limited liability of a partnership or LLC arrangement is important since Absolute Return Funds sometimes use derivatives and leverage. CalPERS, as a limited partner or member, has the benefit of this limited liability.
 - b. CalPERS Hedge Fund Partners, LLC ("CHFP LLC" or

“CHFP”): CHFP LLC is a single-member Delaware LLC of which CalPERS is the sole member. CHFP was established at the inception of the RMARS program as the holding entity for RMARS program investments. It has been subsequently ~~been determined that CalPERS does not benefit from continued use of CHFP as a holding vehicle for RMARS investments. Starting in 2009 and on a going-forward basis, RMARS program investments are being made in the name of CalPERS rather than CHFP, and existing investments held by CHFP will be transferred to CalPERS direct ownership in a timely manner.~~

bc. Access Unique Approaches with Limited Liquidity: The key to successful Absolute Return Fund investing is in selecting vehicles where the specialization of the investment is sufficiently unique that the partnership or LLC structure is justified in limiting asset growth in the strategy, ensuring a proper investment time horizon, and protecting CalPERS from the vagaries of other investors who may not be like-minded. The goal is to ensure that the approaches selected for recommendation do not mirror traditional active management. The fees and expenses of investing in Absolute Return Funds may be higher than traditional active management. CalPERS shall not fund Absolute Return Funds that simply invest in traditional active management approaches at higher fees.

ed. Access Unique Talent: The specialized and focused nature of Absolute Return Funds often requires more specialized investment skills than those needed for traditional active management. Some of these investment professionals manage money only in the partnership format or LLC structure.

4. The negotiation of terms in Absolute Return Funds shall protect the interests of CalPERS, and shall address at a minimum the following issues:

a. Alignment of Interests: Vehicle terms including fees shall be negotiated to align the Investment Manager’s interest with CalPERS, acknowledging that market conditions may not permit “optimal” terms for each Absolute Return Fund. The fee structure, performance objective, restrictions on permitted investments, lock-up period, and other relevant terms shall seek to protect CalPERS in the event of adverse performance results, while ensuring that the limited liability

status is maintained.

- b. Leverage: It is recognized that Absolute Return Funds may expose CalPERS assets to leverage, meaning that a fund's financial exposures may exceed its invested capital. Therefore, Program investments should only be made in investment vehicles which provide limited liability and thereby protect the Program from losing more than its invested capital.
 - c. Reporting Requirements: Each Investment Manager will be required to provide financial and investment reports which comply with geographically appropriate accounting standards (e.g., U.S. GAAP, International Financial Reporting Standards) and which provide Staff adequate information to properly assess and account for performance, fees, expenses, invested capital, and any other items affecting the investment. Monthly and quarterly investment updates are expected of each Investment Manager.
5. The Staff and Consultant shall continually review the efficacy of absolute return-oriented investing. Staff shall present a formal review of the approach to the Committee on an annual basis.

B. Investment Selection

- 1. Absolute Return Funds may be selected if they enhance the Program's ability to achieve its overall investment objective. Absolute Return Funds may include investments in domestic equity, international equity, fixed income, and other securities through approaches that may include, but are not limited to, the following *strategies* (as defined by the leading industry-recognized absolute return fund indices):
 - a. [Directional Trading](#)
 - b. [Event Driven](#)
 - c. [Fund of Absolute Return Funds](#)
 - d. [Multi-Process](#)
 - e. [Security Selection](#)
 - f. [Specialist Credit](#)

2. The following absolute return fund investment styles shall be considered for the Program that may include, but are not limited to, the following (as defined by the leading industry-recognized absolute return fund indices):
 - a. [Commodity Trading Advisors](#)
 - b. [Convertible Arbitrage](#)
 - c. [Distressed Securities](#)
 - d. [Fixed Income Arbitrage](#)
 - e. [Long/Short Credit](#)
 - f. [Long/Short Equity](#)
 - g. [Market Neutral](#)
 - h. [Merger Arbitrage](#)
 - i. [Multiple Arbitrage](#)
 - j. [Statistical Arbitrage](#)
3. Staff shall develop and maintain selection guidelines for prospective absolute return funds. To ensure conformity to the Committee's risk and return expectations, these criteria shall be subject to review by:
 - a. Staff;
 - b. Strategic Advisor(s); and
 - c. The Consultant.

The selection guidelines may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- d. Minimum requirements with respect to the following:
 - (1) Investment Manager Investment Experience
 - (2) Basic Investment Vehicle Terms

- (3) Investment Goals and Objectives
- (4) Degree of Leverage
- e. Performance criteria
- f. Due diligence process
- g. Legal constraints or requirements
- h. Reporting requirements
- i. Quality control processes including, but not limited to, investment monitoring and risk control
- j. Other relevant parameters that may apply

C. Investment Parameters

Investment Managers in Absolute Return Funds shall operate under a limited [partnership agreement](#), or other similar legal structure, which includes specific, written investment guidelines. The guidelines shall outline the Investment Manager's investment philosophy and approaches, representative portfolio characteristics, permissible and restricted securities and procedures, and a performance objective commensurate with the investment risk to be incurred.

Implementation of this Program shall comply at all times with applicable CalPERS investment policies.

D. Risk Parameters

Each Program investment shall have specified a set of risk parameters appropriate for that investment. Staff shall utilize the risk platform that has been internally developed to measure and monitor quantitatively the economic and investment risks associated with the Program, and shall further utilize the judgments and advice of the Strategic Advisor(s) and the Consultant to assess the qualitative risks inherent in managing the Program.

VI. CALCULATIONS AND COMPUTATIONS

Investors, managers, consultants, and other participants selected by CalPERS shall make all calculations and computations on a market value basis as recorded by CalPERS Custodian and the Hedge Fund Administrator.

VII. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Key words used in this policy are defined in CalPERS Master Glossary of Terms.

Approved by the Policy Subcommittee:	June 11, 2004
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Absolute Return Fund

An actively managed portfolio that aims to generate positive returns in both up markets and down markets, in part by managing its exposure to the broad market. An Absolute Return Fund's portfolio tends to utilize long and short positions, derivatives and leverage to accomplish its goal. An Absolute Return Fund is usually set up as a private partnership or an offshore corporation, and in almost all cases incorporates limited liability for passive investors.

Absolute Return Strategic Advisor

A consultant or advisor to the ~~Risk Managed Absolute Return Strategies Program~~ with responsibilities that may include assisting Staff with the screening, evaluating, recommending, and monitoring of Absolute Return Funds for the program, or with assisting Staff in assessing strategic initiatives and policies for the program.

Commodity Trading Advisors

Investment Managers who primarily or exclusively employ the global futures and options markets. These managers run funds which are sometimes referred to as "managed futures" funds. Commodity Trading Advisors tend to provide returns that have a strong trend following component and a positively skewed-return distribution. Commodity Trading Advisors must be registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) unless they are excluded or exempted from registration.

Convertible Arbitrage

A hedge fund strategy that typically involves purchasing a convertible security and simultaneously shorting the common stock of the same company. The convertible security can be the company's preferred stock or debt, secured or unsecured.

Derivative

An instrument whose value is based on the performance of an underlying financial asset, index, or other investment. Classes of derivatives include futures contracts, options, currency forward contracts, swaps, and options on futures.

Directional Trading

A strategy used by investors that open positions, either long or short, on the belief that they are able to correctly predict the movement of price in a security, industry, or market. This strategy is usually employed on equity securities by hedge funds that make directional bets on value/growth, large cap/small cap, net long position or net short position.

Distressed Securities

Debt or equity securities of companies that are in financial distress. These securities tend to trade at significant discounts and attract investors that perceive a turnaround.

Event Driven

Strategies that invest in companies with "special situations" designed to capture price movement generated by a significant pending corporate restructuring, liquidation, bankruptcy, or reorganization.

Financial Firewall

The legal protection from financial liability extending beyond the value of the investment in a Limited Liability Company or Limited Partnership.

Fixed Income Arbitrage

This investment style is comprised of hedge funds that seek to arbitrage from price anomalies between related interest rate securities. The hedge fund shall invest opportunistically in interest rate swaps, U.S. and non-U.S. government bonds, forward agreements, etc.

Fund of Absolute Return Funds

An investment approach where a Fund invests in multiple absolute return vehicles that result in one diversified portfolio. Diversification is created by including absolute return funds utilizing different investment strategies.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

The common set of accounting principles, standards, and procedures. GAAP is a combination of authoritative standards (set by policy boards) and the accepted ways of doing accounting.

Hedge Fund Administrator

The entity responsible for maintaining the accounting records for the ~~Risk-Managed~~ Absolute Return Strategies Program.

Investment Manager

A professional or firm responsible for managing a securities portfolio for an investor. In return for a fee, the investment manager has the fiduciary responsibility to choose and manage investments prudently for their client.

Leverage

A condition where a portfolio's market obligation may exceed the market-value-adjusted capital commitment by the amount of borrowed capital (debt).

Limited Liability Company

An alternative structure to a Limited Partnership. It is often described as a hybrid between a corporation and a partnership because it offers limited liability like a corporation and single taxation on income like a partnership.

Limited Partner

An investor in a limited partnership. Limited partners provide the capital but have no

direct involvement in the management of the fund. Limited partners have limited liability but also have limited control over the management of the fund.

Limited Partnership

The most common format used in structuring private equity investments. Limited partners provide the capital but have no direct involvement in the management of the fund. Limited partners have limited liability but also have limited control over the management of the fund.

Liquidity

The ability to quickly convert a particular investment into cash at a low transaction cost.

Long/Short Credit

This investment style is comprised of hedge funds that seek to arbitrage between the different debt instruments within a company's capital structure. The hedge fund seeks to realize returns from shifts in the credit spreads between the debt instruments.

Long/Short Equity

This investment style is comprised of hedge funds that take both long and short equity positions to extract the maximum value from their investment information/analysis.

Market Neutral

An investment strategy employed by hedge funds that attempts to remove or neutralize systematic market and industry risk, while focusing on stock selection risk. This strategy attempts to profit from the current direction of the market by taking both long and short positions at the same time.

Merger Arbitrage

An investment strategy employed by hedge funds in which the stocks of the merging companies are simultaneously bought and sold in an attempt to create a riskless profit.

Multi-Process

Strategies that invest in multiple hedge fund styles within a single hedge fund structure. The hedge fund allocates assets based on the opportunities among the various hedge fund styles to create the best return/risk profile for the product. The most common hedge fund styles utilized are merger arbitrage, equity long/short, convertible arbitrage, and volatility arbitrage.

Multiple Arbitrage

An investment strategy employed by hedge funds that employ more than one arbitrage strategy within a single hedge fund. The hedge fund allocates assets based on the opportunities among the various arbitrage strategies to create the best return/risk profile for the product. The most common arbitrage strategies are merger arbitrage, fixed income arbitrage, convertible arbitrage, and volatility arbitrage.

Partnership Agreement

Legal document that sets forth the terms and conditions of an investment vehicle. The partnership agreement also establishes the roles of general and limited partners.

Risk

A measurable probability of losing or not gaining value. Risk is differentiated from uncertainty, which is not measurable. Risk in this context is also referred to as "standard deviation", which is a statistical measure of the degree to which an individual value in a probability distribution tends to vary from the mean of the distribution.

Risk Budget

An investment approach where one uses measures of risk to assist in the allocation, management, and monitoring of the investments of an entity, such as a pension fund.

Security Selection

Strategies that seek to mitigate market factors through a variety of hedging techniques with the objective of providing a return based solely on its stock/bond selection analysis.

Specialist Credit

Strategies that seek to profit from price anomalies between the variety of debt instruments (i.e., government, corporate, high yield, sovereign, etc.) and convertible bond instruments.

Statistical Arbitrage

This investment style is comprised of hedge funds that utilize quantitative models to remove all common sources of risk from an equity portfolio (i.e., capitalization, book to market value, dividend yield, etc.) so that only stock selection risk remains. Different from market neutral managers in that quantitative factor models are used to identify and minimize.